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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350
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October 5, 2016

The Honorable Maria Contreras-Sweet
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 Third Street, SW, Suite 7000
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Contreras-Sweet,

I am writing you to request an extension of the registration period for businesses and individuals affected by the August flooding in Louisiana to apply for disaster loans through the Small Business Administration (SBA).

As you saw first-hand during your trip to Louisiana in August, where you joined me in visiting devastated neighborhoods and communities, the recent flooding experienced by Louisianians was historic in its scope and impact, ranking as one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history, damaging or destroying over 146,000 homes. In response, the SBA opened numerous Business Recovery Centers in the state and began to offer low- interest loans to both businesses and individuals affected by flooding. Typically, applicants are given 60 days to register with the SBA in order to apply for assistance; however, considering the recent uptick in registrations reported by the SBA and the uncharacteristically low application rate for small businesses thus far, I request that you extend for an additional 60 days the registration deadline for Louisiana parishes impacted by the flooding, which is currently set for October 13, 2016.

As the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and a proud Louisianian, I have a responsibility to do all that I can to assist individuals and business owners in my state who are rebuilding after this devastating disaster. Thank you for your help in carrying out that duty, and I look forward to your response by October 7, 2016. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Devon Redfield at (202) 224-5175.

Sincerely,



David Vitter
Chairman